Setting up of projects in Orissa by multi-national corporations

*239. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that multi-national corporations and big business houses flocking to set-up projects in Orissa would not benefit the local people;

(b) whether it is also a fact that they are a threat to their livelihood besides causing environmental damage; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government to protect the interests of the local people and environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) During the period August 1991 to December 2001, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals involving a total amount of Rs. 8230 crores have been accorded approval in respect of proposed projects in several sectors in the State of Orissa, which amounts to 3.0% of the total FDI approved for the whole country during this period.

Foreign Direct Investment supplements domestic investment efforts and is sought by developing countries, including India, in view of its perceived advantages. These include, apart from net additional inflow of scarce resources, infusion of state-of-the-art technologies, globally best management practices and enhanced international competitiveness of the domestic industry. Foreign Direct Investment is subject to all the domestic laws and investment procedures as applicable to local industry, including conformance with environmental regulations.

Share of Karnataka in petrol/diesel cess.

*240. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka has requested to release Rs. 57.5 crores as its share in petrol and diesel cess collection; and

(b) if so, the action, if any, taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 19.17 crore was released initially to Kamataka in November,
2000 from State's annual accrual of Rs. 57.50 crore for year 2000-
2001 from revamped Central Road Fund. Thereafter, an utilisation certificate for only Rs. 5.62 crore has been received during 2001-2002, so far from Kamataka and further funds to the tune of Rs. 5.62 crore have been released during 2001-2002 from Central Road Fund.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Flights to foreign countries from Kolkata

1629. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce more international flights particularly for Hongkong, Singapore and Jordan from Kolkata International Airport in view of foolproof security;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government have any plan to start more Air India flights from Kolkata?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Besides Indian Airlines, foreign airlines namely KLM, Royal Brunei Airlines, Druk Air, Biman Bangladesh, British Airways, Thai Airways, Royal Jordanian and Singapore Airlines are operating to/from Kolkata to various foreign destinations including Jordan and Singapore. Kolkata is also available as a point of call to the designated airlines of Hongkong. Actual operations, are however, matters of commercial judgement of the airlines concerned.

(c) Air India will be introducing twice weekly services to Bangkok from Kolkata with effect from 4th April, 2002.